

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON  
PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2006**

**Present:** Cllr. House (Chair), Bulgin, Faulkner, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small, and Walker. County Cllr. Clark, District Cllr. Leighton, 5 Parishioners, Mr Alex Stevens (TDBC) and Mary Growtage (Clerk)

C Ben Hicks and a colleague were present for Parishioners question time.

**Apologies:**Cllr. Anderdon, Durdan (District), Hancock, Hill, and Marshall.

03/06.01

**PARISH PLAN -ALEX STEVENS**

Alex Stevens (Rural and Community Support Office, TD) spoke -on the Parish Plan and how we should 'go forward' in the future. The main support for this would come from the Community Council.

A Parish Plan should bring together the views, needs and opinions of the whole community. It should be a holistic document, covering the social, economic and environmental issues of relevance to our parishioners. It sets out what is important, whether key facilities and services, or distinctive local character, and gives everyone a chance to guide future development. A concise action plan prioritises the issues raised, and sets out how they might be tackled.

It was agreed that this should be the main item on the agenda of our Annual Parish Meeting in May and that this should be announced in the next newsletter.

lex said he would advice and assist in the development of the plan.

03/06.02

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman.

03/06.03

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

31/2006/001 - ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT PORCH AT MUSGRAVE FARM, LOWER HENLADE.

This is a renewal and was originally passed in 2001.

The meeting agreed that this application should be renewed.

TD has approved 31/2005/017 - Erection of detached dwelling and garage The Hyde, Henlade.

31/2005/018 - Erection of replacement garage with studio above at Gabrieli, Lower Henlade. TD passed permission.

The clerk will request that in future we receive the Planning Officer's recommendation/ comments before the application is discussed at our meeting.

03/06.04

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

**SPEED COUNT, LOWER HENLADE** - This has now been received and will be passed to all interested members.

**TREE WARDENS** - Following The Tree Warden Scheme Consultation, the Parish Council will nominate their own tree wardens (there being no limit to the number that can be appointed) and TD will provide Public and Personal Accident cover. This will not cover the use of chainsaws and trimmers or the use of herbicides.

Mrs Bandy is our current tree warden and it was suggested that she be approached and asked if she wishes to continue and if so if she could attend the occasional parish council meeting.

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2006** - TD have made an order in respect of individual trees, groups of trees and woodland in the grounds of Woodlands, Ruishton. The Order contains a direction under Section 201 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The grounds for making the said Order are that there is a proposal to develop the site, which could harm the trees.

**RATS IN THE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE HALL** - The Pest Control Officer (TD) has investigated this matter. Parishioners should be aware that any food left laying around will attract rats, even if put out to feed birds.

03/06.05

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A copy of the Somerset Economic Strategic Plan is available should any councillor wish to read it.

03/06.06

### **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.**

CIr. Faulkner had studied the entry form and got other information from the website. Being of the opinion that it should be left until next year when hopefully, we will

have got underway with the Parish Plan.

03/06.07

### **UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED CYCLEWAY FROM RUISHTON TO HANKRIDGE**

Since last May, the following work has been undertaken:- initial design of the cycle route and bridge, topographical survey of the site, and a preliminary ecological assessment of the field and watercourses. Initial meetings have also been held with the closest residents, landowners and the Environment Agency.

Although the preparatory work has been undertaken, the scheme is not currently included within a construction programme. This is due to the ending of the current Local Transport Plan in March 2006 and the production of the next Plan spanning the years 2006 - 2011 - 'LTP2'. The emphasis of this new Plan is very much on delivering the Government's priorities relating to congestion, safety, accessibility and pollution, through a variety of indicators. All transport schemes, including this cycle route, are therefore currently being 'scored' against these indicators which have a particular emphasis on accident reduction and use of public transport.

It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Chief Executive (SCC) for his support in this matter.

03/06.8

### **RECREATION FIELD**

tree at the end of the footpath has not yet been cut back

03/06.9

### **CREECH ST MICHAEL TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

The clerk has heard from Nigel Farrow, secretary of Creech St Michael Twinning Association. Asking if we would first support the extension of the membership of the Association to include Ruishton and secondly, whether we would wish formally to link ourselves with the Association and its twinning arrangement with the villages of the Vallee d'Auge.

It was agreed to ask the Chairman or Secretary to attend the Annual Parish in May to answer questions relating to this proposal.

03/06.10

### **HIGHWAYS**

CIlr. Lowe has requested a meeting with Neil Pincombe (Somerset Highways) to discuss outstanding matters

03/06.11

### **FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME UPDATE**

The commencement of this work was delayed due to Health and Safety issues. Work has now commenced and the road closure order has been extended to Tuesday, 28 March but hopefully the highway can be re-opened before that date. Residents directly effected were notified by the Environment Agency.

03/06.12

### **ACCOUNTS**

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
Vale Labels Ltd	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes Ltd	555.78	Maintenance and lowering of hedge
Ruishton Village Hall	49.70	Hire of Village Hall to 31/3
Chairman	250.00	Annual allowance
Clerk	4056.00	Salary

£3k has been transferred from Scottish Widows Deposit a/c to the Nat West a/c

03/06.13

### **COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S**

County Cllr. Clark stated that the CC rate increase was 5% for 2006/07

He also spoke on the unitisation of Local Government with a view to the merger of County and District Councils.

District Cllr. Leighton, said that a planning application was expected from the SCC for the proposed Park and Ride at Cambria Farm, although commencement does not seem likely until 2008.

Local Development Framework - Consultations will commence on 20 March for 10 weeks, this will be widely advertised.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35 PM**

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 5 APRIL 2006 Parishioners question time will be at 7.20 pm**

**PARISH MEEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2006  
THORNFALCON COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM  
RUISHTON AT 7.30 PM**

**THE COUNCIL IS AWARE *OF* THEIR IMPLICATION UNDER  
SEC.17 *OF* THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 2000  
AND HAVE CONSIDERED THE ACT IN THEIR DECISION MAKING.**